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Embassy of the U.S.A.
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Friday, December 29, 1950

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REGENT'S BROADCAST TO THE NATION

In a nation-wide speech over the Baghdad Radio, HRH the Regent, on behalf of HM the King, the Royal Family, and himself, expressed his thanks and appreciation of the noble feeling of the people of Iraq during the sickness of the Queen and after her death, wishing all success and prosperity under the aegis of HM the King. (All papers)

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THURSDAY'S MEETING OF PARLIAMENT

Ten speakers took the floor during the Parliamentary debate on the Speech from the Throne, they are:

Ismail Ghanim
Arkan Abadi
Mohammed Jawad Al-Khatib
Abdul Karim Kanna
Razzouk Shammass
Ghazi Ali Al-Karim
Abdul Majid Al-Qassab
Salman Al-Ibrahim
Mohammed Meshin Al-Hardan
Abdul Hadi Al-Bajari

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Ismail Al-Ghanim: criticized the various speeches made by the Premier and asked that now with the shrinking of British influence, he sees it in the country's interest to conclude - in place of the Treaty - a non-aggression and friendship pact and also to conclude a similar pact with Russia and the west European countries.

Arkan Abadi: thanked the government for supporting the Egyptian case for finding work for the unemployed, and also for the government's activities in creating a court of appeal to consider tribal cases. He further asked the government to look into the question of rising in prices.

Mohammed Jawad Al-Khatib: thanked the Premier for supporting Egypt and asked him to continue to promote cooperation with the Arab States. The world situation, he said, demands immediate

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talks among the Arab League States for designing a unified plan. He also asked the government to pay more attention to the country's economic affairs.

Abdul Karim Kanna: based his argument on feudalism, and expressed hope to see the government abolishing the tribal law. He further referred to the Oil Affairs saying that the oil concession was concluded under 'coercion' and as such the government is not bound to keep.

Razzouk Shammas: said that the Premier is used to having two programs, an official program which he declares and an unofficial one which he uses when not in power. We would like to know the text of the unofficial one, he argues. It is quite impossible for Iraq to remain neutral due to its oil and geographical position, nor join the western or Russian camp. Referring to the Arab countries, he said that Saudi Arabia is with America and Jordania with the British. However, the Egyptian situation is causing anxiety, and Lebanon is signing treaties with everyone. Syria's position is annoying, what then is our position? Why should not we unite and sign the Collective Security Pact?, he concludes.

Ghazi Ali Al-Kerim: spoke of the formation of the present Cabinet and said that no one knows why As-Suwaidi Cabinet had resigned or how the new Cabinet was formed; also no one knows of Nuri As-Said's important political activities during his trips to London prior to coming to power. He also referred to the shame elections, the responsibility of which falls on one of the present members of his cabinet.

Abdul Majid Al-Qassab: said that the Cabinet program was full of puzzles for it did not mention in detail our relations with Britain. He supported Faiq Samerrai's demand for clarification of our foreign policy. Criticizing the elections, he said that we are not even free to express our opinion in our own houses.

Salman Ibrahim: referred to the Premier's Speech at his Party and asked why the question of the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty was not mentioned in the Speech from the Throne and why no reference was made to the Palestine issue. This failure has given rise to rumors that Iraq is trying to bind its destiny to a government which is trying to make peace with the Jews. We want a clarification of this point, he concludes.

Mohammed Mehzen Al-Hardan: supported the government and said that he finds no reason for becoming enemies to government who have no armies stationed in our country (meaning Russia). It is in our interest to unify our foreign policy, he concluded.

Abdul.....

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Abdul Hadi Al-Bajari: spoke about ignoring the Palestine question and asked for the government's plans on Palestine and Palestine refugees. He queried about the government's attitude towards these two camps. In conclusion, he adds that the Arabs joined the western camp in the First World War and this caused the partition of their boundaries; in the Second World War, they lost Palestine. We are afraid now that in the forthcoming war we will lose our country. (Al-Shaab).

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